

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (VDSS) EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM (ECEP)

In order to meet the need for highly qualified early childhood and child care providers, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has offered training on the care, development, health, and safety of young children for many years. In recognition of the increased need for more structured early childhood professional development options, the Office of Early Childhood Development, a part of the Virginia Department of Social Services, has established the Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP). This program is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge for working with children of specific ages.

The ECEP is a collaboration between the Office of Early Childhood Development, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA).

The VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program provides two options: the Infant and Toddler Endorsement (ECEP – IT) and the Preschool Endorsement (ECEP – PS). The ECEP consists of courses offered regularly by VDSS that have been enhanced with project work and assessment tools. All ECEP courses are taught by CCWA adjunct faculty.

To Participate

Individuals who participate in the VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program (Infant and Toddler Endorsement or Preschool Endorsement) must:

- Register to attend component courses as outlined on page 9.
- Attend all required courses.
- Receive written and project assessments from the instructor at the end of each class (15-30 minutes).
- Complete all written and project assessments.
- Keep completed assessments until the end of each semester. At the end of each semester, submit all completed assessments for each ECEP course completed to VDSS for grading.
- Receive a passing score for each required course to receive the VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement.

Early childhood and child care professionals who are successful will receive the VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement and will be eligible to apply for three college credits.

College Credit

Upon completion of either of the Early Childhood Endorsements (Infant and Toddler or Preschool), participants may choose to apply for college credit. To be eligible to apply for college credit, individuals must:

1. Keep all materials included in the program (participant handouts and texts, and all completed, graded assessments and projects) in a portfolio for future review. Information on developing and submitting a portfolio for review to receive college credit will be distributed to successful candidates with the awarding of the VDSS ECEP certificate of completion.
2. Achieve a grade-point-average (GPA) of 2.0 or better on all class materials submitted for the ECEP.

Registration information and forms can be found in this catalog on pages 2 - 5 or online at: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>.

VDSS EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM (ECEP)

I. Infant and Toddler Endorsement (ECEP-IT)

The ECEP – IT consists of the following 12 courses. Each course will be offered once per year as outlined below:

Each Spring

Beyond Babble: Exploring Early Language Development
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
Understanding Temperaments to Help Infants and Toddlers Learn and Develop

Each Fall

Part 1 - Ages and Stages of Development for Infants and Toddlers (pg 12)
Part 2 - Creating an Appropriate Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers (pg 13)
Part 3 - Planning Activities for Infants and Toddlers (pg 16)
Part 4 - Guiding the Behaviors of Infants and Toddlers (pg 14)
Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents (pg 15)
Observation and Recording: It's Not Always Obvious (pg 15)
Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment (pg 17)

Self-Study

Early Childhood Theorists
(For registration information contact: ecep@dss.virginia.gov or (804) 726-7468)

II. Preschool Endorsement (ECEP-PS)

The ECEP – PS consists of the following 12 courses. Each course will be offered once per year as outlined below:

Each Spring

Part 1 - Ages and Stages of Development of Preschoolers Ages Three to Five
Part 2 - Creating an Age Appropriate Learning Environment for Preschoolers
Part 3 - Planning Age and Stage Appropriate Activities for Preschoolers
Part 4 - Guiding the Behaviors of Preschool Children Ages Three to Five
Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
Health Screening for Child Care Professionals

Each Fall

Every Teacher is a Brain Surgeon - Exploring Brain Development – Part 1 (pg 13)
Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents (pg 15)
Observation and Recording: It's Not Always Obvious (pg 15)
Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment (pg 17)
Reframing Discipline Part 1: From Stopping Misbehavior to Teaching Skills (pg 17)

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Additional Information

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